

### Cross-Reference to Related Applications

Wt  
9/03  
Wt 9/03

10 This invention relates to micro-organisms and their use in animal feed.

[illegible]

15 value of prepared silage. Wo-A-9313786 and WO-A-9617525 relate to enhancement of animal performance using microorganisms; WO-A-93/3786 refers to species of *Lactobacillus*.

20 aim of the finishing process is to produce beef in a form most acceptable to the consumer. During finishing, there is an increase in muscle (red meat) mass as well as an increase in the amount of fat. Whilst in the feedlot, the animals are switched to a diet which is high in energy and low in fibre, commonly known as 'concentrates', mostly cereal grains and especially corn (maize). The switch to

25 high levels of carbohydrate-containing feeds can lead to a number of problems, including bloat, acidosis and various ruminal toxicosis symptoms. These conditions can be detrimental to the health of the animal and, in severe cases, can be fatal.

30 feedlot rations. These include a number of strains of bacteria, fungi and yeast. During the first 10 years of the use of DFMs, *Lactobacillus acidophilus* was one of the most commonly utilised microbial feed additives. When feeding